



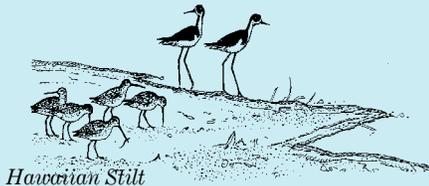
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge Land Protection Planning Study

Planning Update 1, April 2004

Aloha!

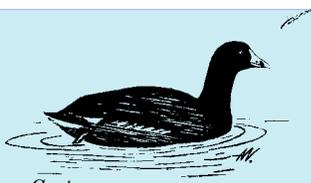
This is the first in a series of updates from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that will inform you of our progress on developing a land protection plan for the James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge and surrounding area.



Hawaiian Stilt

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Hawaiian Coot

How Do I Comment on the Land Protection Study?

Your participation is encouraged. Contact information is on page 5. The Service would like to receive comments on the information provided in this Update by June 1, 2004.



The James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge currently protects 164 acres of habitat important to the survival of endangered waterbirds.

What is the James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge Land Protection Planning Study?

The James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge) is located in Kahuku, on the northeastern coast of O`ahu. The Refuge is comprised of two units, the Ki`i Unit and the Punamano Unit which are separated by nearly a mile. The Ki`i Unit is comprised of bermed ponds and the Punamano Unit contains a natural freshwater marsh and shallow wetlands surrounding the marsh.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is initiating a Land Protection Planning Study to determine the feasibility of:

- Acquiring and managing high quality wetland and coastal dune habitats found within the Kahuku coastal plain as part of the James Campbell Refuge.
- Conserving the native wildlife species that occur there.
- Participating in a flood abatement project to protect the community.

What Habitats Will Be Studied? The Kahuku coastal floodplain includes high quality coastal dune and strand habitats along with wetlands that serve as essential habitat for endangered and migratory birds. The natural dunes of the area are a rare formation for the islands, and coastal wetlands and strand habitats have been decimated on O`ahu due to urbanization. The habitats are located on the *makai* (ocean) side of Kamehameha Highway extending to the coast in a few places (see map on page 3). The land is owned by the Estate of James Campbell, a willing participant in the study. The inclusion of this habitat as part of the Refuge would help protect and recover four species of endangered Hawaiian waterbirds; provide habitat for a variety of migratory waterfowl and shorebirds; and help promote restoration of native coastal plant communities and animals including green sea turtles, native damselflies, and other fish and wildlife. Refuge staff would continue working with other agencies, the community, and the landowner on future flood hazard reduction projects to help find a solution to serious flooding problems in nearby areas. Continued on page 2 . . .

Photos: USFWS



Hawaiian stilt



Hawaiian coot



Hawaiian moorhen



Hawaiian duck

Continued from Page 1 . . .

What are the Goals of Conserving the Area's Wildlife Habitats?

Reduce Flood Damage: Participate in community and government efforts to reduce flood hazards in Kahuku while providing wildlife habitat in the coastal plain.

Conserve Species and their Habitats: Protect, restore, and enhance native habitats to aid in the recovery of federally endangered and threatened species and to prevent listing of additional species.

Conserve Biodiversity: Protect, manage, and restore wetlands, dune, and coastal strand habitats representative of the natural biological diversity of the Kahuku coastal area.

Promote Public Use: Promote certain wildlife-dependent recreational activities such as wildlife observation, photography, interpretation, education, hunting, and fishing, when those activities are compatible with Refuge purposes.

Beach Access: Ensure coastline access and protection of cultural resources.

Will Flood Control be Part of this Study? For many years the Refuge has been closely involved in flood protection planning in the Kahuku area. Refuge staff have worked actively with the community, the Estate of James Campbell, State and local agencies, and the Army Corps of Engineers to help design a project that will reduce severe flood damage in the town of Kahuku, which is adjacent to the Refuge. While the design phase of the flood control program is underway, we desire to move forward with the land protection study in order to pursue our goals of wildlife protection and federal ownership for future flood control measures in Kahuku.

What Species Would Benefit from Protecting These Habitats?

All four species of endangered Hawaiian waterbirds—Hawaiian stilt, Hawaiian coot, Hawaiian moorhen, and Hawaiian duck—nest and maintain populations on the Refuge and occur within the Kahuku coastal plain.

The Refuge and surrounding areas are premier spots for observing wintering migratory waterfowl and shorebirds that visit from September through May. Important migratory species on the Refuge that would benefit from protection and management of additional habitat include Shoveler; Northern pintail, Black-crowned night heron, Pacific golden plover; Semi-palmated plover, Ruddy turnstone, Sanderling, Wandering tattler, Lesser yellowlegs, and Bristle-thighed curlew. Ring-billed gull regularly visit the Refuge during winter months. The Asian Short-eared owl (also known as Hawaiian owl or *pueo*) is a Species of Concern and listed as endangered on O`ahu by the State of Hawai`i. Owls have been observed hunting over grassy areas and marshes on and adjacent to the Refuge.

In the recent past, green turtles nested in the area every other year for a total of three nesting seasons. Eggs were deposited in the sand just south of the Ki`i outlet. Endangered Hawaiian monk seals are known to occur in offshore waters and would likely use the beach area if undisturbed. Protection of the area from predators would also foster colonization of the dune strand areas by Pacific migratory seabirds including Laysan albatross, Red-footed boobies, and ground nesting seabirds such as shearwaters and petrels.

Your Participation in the Land Protection Planning Study is Important

The purpose of this Planning Update is to engage you in the study and provide background information for you to comment on early in the planning process. The Service values community input and your participation ensures that all issues pertaining to this project are considered comprehensively during the study process and addressed in future planning documents. The public information gathering or “scoping phase” of this project begins with this planning update. It is a good time for you to get involved early in the process by providing your comments, ideas, and issues to Phyllis Ha, Ecologist and lead planner for this effort. Her contact information is listed on the last page. Some of the issues the Refuge is currently aware of are listed below. These issues will be addressed during the planning process.

- Flood water management
- Effects on land features from changes in land use
- Effects on farms and aquaculture
- Economic effects from changes in land use
- Maintaining beach/ocean access for recreation
- Public use management
- Effects on cultural resources
- Recovery of endangered Hawaiian water birds
- Effects on other species and wildlife habitats
- Habitat management

What Happens Next?

The Land Protection Planning process integrates three components—detailed study and planning, extensive public involvement, and environmental compliance. At least two public comment periods will be held during the planning process, however, your comments are welcome at anytime during the process. You can provide comments in a letter, fax, e-mail, or by phone, see page 5 for contact information. The planning process will be carried out as follows:

- This Update begins the public scoping process. Comments received by June 1, 2004, will be considered during development of the draft planning documents.
- Beginning in June, public comments will be reviewed and the Service will begin developing alternatives for a draft environmental compliance document, a land protection plan, and a conceptual management plan. The alternatives can range from no action to including all or part of the study area lands within a modified refuge boundary proposal.
- These draft documents will be provided to the public for review and comment. Comments will be considered in final documents.
- Based on the refuge boundary configuration and management alternatives presented in the final documents, Service decision-makers will choose an appropriate course of action.

The availability of the draft documents and the public review and comment period will be announced in future planning updates and news releases. A preliminary schedule of key planning steps follows (dates may change):

Project Kickoff/Public Scoping Begins/Planning Update 1 Issued.....	April 2004
Public Scoping Comment Period Ends.....	June 1, 2004
Draft Documents Available/Public Comment Period Begins.....	October 2004
Public Comments Due.....	November 2004
Notice of Decision Issued.....	February 2005



Who Do I Contact?



USE OUR E-MAIL OR WEBSITE

E-mail Comments to:

FW1PlanningComments@r1.fws.gov

(Please use "James Campbell
Refuge" in the subject.)

Refuge Planning Web site:

<http://pacific.fws.gov/planning>

Send Comments or Requests for Planning Information to:

Phyllis Ha

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Pacific Islands Refuge Planning Office

Box 50167

Honolulu, HI 96850

Phone: (808) 792-9540 or Fax: (808) 792-9585

Send Scoping
Comments by:
June 1, 2004

For Information on the National Wildlife Refuge System, contact:

Sylvia R. Pelizza, Refuge Manager

O`ahu National Wildlife Refuge Complex

66-590 Kamehameha Highway, Room 2C

Hale`iwa, HI 96712

Phone: (808) 637-6330 or Fax: (808) 637-3578



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE
Fish and Wildlife Service
Pacific Islands Refuge Planning
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Address correction requested

In this issue:
Learn about
and participate
in a study of
the Kahuku
coastal plain.

Visit the James Campbell National Wildlife Refuge Web Site at: <http://pacificislands.fws.gov/wnwr/ojamesnwr.html>